

HOUSE BILL 998

By Turner J

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2,
Chapter 2, relative to voter registration.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-2-109, is amended by deleting such section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

2-2-109.

(a) A qualified voter may register or have the voter's registration altered at the commission office at any time the office is open, including the day of election and the period of early voting, except that applications for registration shall not be processed for five (5) days before an election; provided, that a qualified voter may file a mail registration form by postmarking the registration form or submitting the registration form thirty (30) days before an election. A mail registration form lacking a postmark, but signed and dated at least thirty (30) days before an election, shall be timely filed if it is received by the county election commission no later than the twenty-seventh day prior to the election. A qualified voter may correct a deficient but timely filed mail registration form if the voter comes to the commission office no later than five (5) days before the election and presents the rejection of registration notice to the administrator of elections. The administrator shall register the person to vote if the person is otherwise eligible to register. The administrator shall be empowered to update an existing registration until no later than five (5) days before an election to place it within the correct precinct in the county when a voter changes the voter's address through the process described in § 2-7-140.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), when a presidential preference primary is held or an election is held at the same time as a presidential preference primary, a voter who desires to register for such elections shall go to the county election commission office not less than seven (7) days before the day of the election or on the day of the election.

(c) When elections are being held in two (2) or more voting districts within any county, the time period for such registration or alteration of permanent registration records shall be calculated for each election separately, and such registration or alteration of permanent registration records is not prohibited in one (1) election because it is less than five (5) days prior to another within the same county.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.